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## Kenyon Collegian - October 6, 2005

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# THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

Gambier, Ohio

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005

8 Pages

## Kenyon issues ultimatum to ARAMARK

BY WILLOW BELDEN  
Editor-in-Chief

Kenyon's new chief business officer, David McConnell, has issued an ultimatum to the College's food service provider: ARAMARK must demonstrate significant improvement in the quality of the food and the services it provides by Oct. 13, or else the company will be replaced.

Two other food service providers, AVI FOODSYSTEMS, Inc. and Bon Appétit, have already visited Kenyon to evaluate ARAMARK's performance. According to McConnell, both are also being considered as replacements for ARAMARK. Representatives from both companies have interviewed students to hear their suggestions and complaints regarding food on campus.

### • Concerns about ARAMARK

Having toured the facilities upon his arrival at Kenyon in June and having eaten in the dining halls at least several times a week this semester, McConnell said he is "quite concerned about the quality of the program we're providing."

He said he has "real reservations about the quality and standard of sanitation being maintained in our facilities, ... concerns about the level of [ARAMARK's] effort in local purchases, ... concerns about what they were charging our catered customers' ... [and] concerns about accuracy of billing."

In addition, McConnell said

## Subdivision sparks concern

Area residents ponder implications of proposed development

BY MAX THELANDER  
News Editor

In the three weeks since local residents gathered outside the Memorial Building in Mount Vernon to protest a proposed 183-house subdivision on Yauger Road in Monroe Township, their voices have died down, the signs reading "Save the Farm" put away.

The preliminary plat for the Lakes at Wolf Run subdivision was approved by a 17-6 vote at the Regional Planning Commission's (RPC) meeting on Sep. 15, though protesters voiced many concerns at the meeting. Now, with a final plat (the last step before construction) on the way, the question of what will happen next continues to be foremost on the minds of many Knox County residents.

During the RPC meeting, much of the frustration appeared to stem from local residents' feelings that their desire to keep a development from being built on Yauger Road had been ignored. In 2003, Monroe Township residents collected enough signatures for a referendum that allowed residents to vote on new zoning rules that would have allowed a retirement development

that ARAMARK does not adequately label foods in the dining halls and does not meet the needs of many students with allergies and other dietary restrictions. Some students with certain medical conditions are not even on the Kenyon meal plan because the dining halls do not offer enough foods they can eat.

Finally, McConnell said he has "reservations about the quality of the management group and how well they relate to students. ... I haven't seen anybody walking around the dining halls during meals and sitting down with students and asking, 'How's it going?'"

Kenyon's "participation rate" is only 63 percent—meaning that Kenyon students eat fewer than six and a half out of ten meals in the dining halls. In contrast, the participation rate at Grinnell College (where McConnell was previously the director of dining services) is 80 percent.

"In an isolated place like this, [a low participation rate is] problematic," McConnell said, "and it tells me something about the quality of our program."

### • Response to the ultimatum

McConnell sent a letter to ARAMARK in mid-September, outlining his concerns and giving ARAMARK 30 days to shape up.

"In response to his concerns, we have completed focus groups with students and faculty/staff," said Niles Gebele, the general manager at ARAMARK. "In addition we have

brought in a team of ARAMARK leadership that has assessed the operation and made recommendations."

Forty-nine students attended the various focus group sessions two weeks ago. According to Gebele, they indicated that "the food has significantly improved from three years ago [and that] the freedom to walk in without using a swipe card is 'priceless.'" However, Gebele said, students requested "better food description and nutritional information," longer hours of service and additional water taps.

According to Jane Alexander '06, who participated in one of the sessions, the representatives from ARAMARK "were very concerned about our opinions. I actually felt

like I was heard and something might change."

McConnell, however, said he remains skeptical that ARAMARK managers are generating enough ideas for improvement on their own. "I notified ARAMARK and said I had two companies coming in," McConnell explained. "AVI, ... in their day and a half on campus, interviewed 217 students. ... ARAMARK then called and said, 'We want to have interviews.' All of a sudden they're interested in talking to students."

But according to Gebele, ARAMARK has been interested in student feedback throughout its 24 years of serving Kenyon. "We do the on-line dining styles survey twice a year," he said, adding that ARAMARK gleans

additional feedback from comment cards, food committee meetings, website responses and conversations with students.

"We make every effort to respond to [each] comment," Gebele said, "either by contacting the student directly or providing a response on the bulletin boards at the dining hall."

Gebele did not say how many of the student suggestions actually spawn changes. However, he said on-line surveys show "a steady increase in student satisfaction. In fact ... our survey scores for Kenyon dining services for price/value perception, speed of service, sanitation and hospitality far exceed the national mean."

see ARAMARK, page 2

## CRITICAL MASS



Steve Klise

Andy Braddock '06 and others participate in Critical Mass, a bike advocacy event that happens the last Friday of every month at 5:30 p.m. This fall Gambier joins approximately 200 other cities in North America by taking to the streets to raise awareness of biking as an alternative mode of transportation to automobiles. A popular phrase for Critical Massers is, "We aren't blocking traffic, we *are* traffic."

## Housing lottery system under discussion

BY MIKE FRICK  
Staff Reporter

Disgruntled students and many complaints have lead Student Council to consider revising the process by which students are assigned rooms. Student complaints about the housing lottery include frustration with being summer-housed, concern about students living off-campus, and frustration with sophomores living in the Acland Apartments.

Despite complaints, Chair of Housing and Grounds Steve Hands '06 said that Kenyon's housing lottery is still a good system. "We probably have the fairest system, but it's just annoying that you need to work the system in order to get good housing," Hands said. "The frustration is not just dealing with the lottery but dealing with people being upset and complaining at the results. If we do it right, we can make things for Residential Life a lot easier."

Student Council President Sam Shopin-

ski '06 emphasized that "a review of the housing lottery doesn't mean that we are going to make any changes." Both the Student Council and the Housing and Grounds Committee have recognized the need to reconsider the lottery process in light of the recent housing crunch.

One of the proposals suggested by Hands is to make the lottery an electronic process where "students fill out a form over the web rather than attend a personal lottery."

Council member Mike Zabek '08 pointed out that an electronic lottery would "help those studying abroad in the spring" find housing for their senior year. When asked about the potential convenience of such a system, Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto cautioned, "electronic housing placement works typically at schools that are larger and have simpler lottery systems. It is a little more complicated here since we have three-person, four-person and six-person apartments. The difficulty is finding the software tailored to Kenyon."

Another option Hands mentioned would change the process to "a simple lottery where an entire class will choose housing on the same day." Currently, the lottery delegates housing according to room occupancy, with singles allocated first, then three- and six-person apartments, then four-person

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## YEARS AGO

October 3, 1974

## Arson a possibility in two of three weekend fires

Three fires damaged residence halls at Kenyon during the fall of 1974. On September 22, McBride was evacuated after a student dropped burning trash down the trash chute, believing that "the disposal system in McBride led to an incinerator." The student went to the fire chief after the fire to explain his actions.

"We have no doubt that this fire was completely accidental," said then-Director of Student Housing Donald Omahan.

The second fire was on September 30, when around midnight alarms went off in Mather Residence due to "burning trash bags stored in a basement hallway." While the fire did not spread, "the smoke was thick enough to require the use of face masks by fire-fighters," said the fire chief. The next morning, another trash fire started in the McBride laundry room.

Omahan said officials were "considering a possible link between the two fires" on the same day. "Arson is always something we have to look into," explained Omahan. "Common sense would tell you [that after two fires in one day] we are looking for connections."

October 6, 1988

## College adopts ticketing program

Seventeen years ago the "growing audiences at Social Board and Faculty Lectureship presentations" prompted Rosanne Hayes, then-Director of Student Activities, to create a ticket distribution system. The main purpose of distributing tickets for events is "crowd control at popular events" according to Hayes. The Social Board had also considered booking more performances and moving lectures to areas with larger seating capacities.

"We have to be able to meet the needs of both the performer and the audience," said Hayes. Speakers who were expected to draw large crowds were to be moved to the Ernst Center and artists who needed better sound systems placed in Rosse Hall. Hayes said the ticketing program would try to be "as fair as possible" by not holding any tickets from the public "except for Social Board members who are working the events," involving "a rotation of students cooking and cleaning up on the weekends when Gund Commons is closed."

BY JEFF FORCE  
Collegian Historian

## VILLAGE RECORD

## SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 4, 2005

- Sept. 29, 12:31 a.m.** – Unauthorized party at Crozier Center – students were cooperative and dispersed.
- Sept. 29, 9:41 a.m.** – Non-injury hit-skip vehicle accident on Woodside Drive.
- Sept. 29, 7:20 p.m.** – Medical call regarding ill student at McBride Residence. College physician was notified.
- Sept. 29, 11:16 p.m.** – Medical call regarding injured student at Caples Residence. Injury was cleaned and bandaged.
- Sept. 30, 9:07 p.m.** – Underage possession of alcohol at Old Kenyon.
- Sept. 30, 9:45 p.m.** – Underage consumption/possession of alcohol at Leonard Hall.
- Oct. 1, 4:12 a.m.** – Underage consumption outside Peoples Bank.
- Oct. 1, 1:49 a.m.** – Student driving while intoxicated on Gaskin Avenue.
- Oct. 1, 2:59 a.m.** – Tampering with fire equipment/pull station pulled at Old Kenyon.
- Oct. 1, 9:13 a.m.** – Vandalism/broken window at Peirce Hall.
- Oct. 1, 10:11 a.m.** – Vandalism/broken vase at Gund Commons.
- Oct. 1, 1:11 p.m.** – Medical call regarding injured visiting rugby player. Person transported by squad to the hospital.
- Oct. 1, 1:56 p.m.** – Non student motorcycle accident on St. Rt. 229.
- Oct. 1, 3:09 p.m.** – Medical call regarding injured visiting rugby player – person transported to the Health Center.
- Oct. 1, 7:37 p.m.** – Alarm sounding in Maintenance boiler room. Maintenance was notified.
- Oct. 1, 9:00 p.m.** – Medical call at Mather Residence, regarding student injured in rugby game. College physician was contacted.
- Oct. 1, 9:16 p.m.** – Suspicious vehicle on south campus.
- Oct. 1, 11:04 p.m.** – Underage possession outside New Apartments.
- Oct. 2, 3:17 a.m.** – Underage consumption between Mather/McBride Residences.
- Oct. 2, 3:00 p.m.** – Medical call regarding injured visiting ultimate Frisbee player. Person transported to the hospital by squad.
- Oct. 2, 3:05 p.m.** – Vandalism/food items all over lounge and kitchen at Bushnell Hall.
- Oct. 3, 3:39 a.m.** – Fire alarm at Olin Library/smoke detector activated. No smoke or fire found and the alarm was reset.
- Oct. 3, 12:11 p.m.** – Tampering with fire equipment – extinguisher discharged on front porch of village resident.
- Oct. 3, 10:19 p.m.** – Tampering with fire equipment – chemical extinguisher discharged at Old Kenyon.
- Oct. 3, 11:59 p.m.** – Tampering with fire equipment/fire hose unraveled at the Ernst Center.

## ARAMARK: Replacements considered

CONTINUED from page 1

Nonetheless, Gebele said he and his team are "dedicated to implementing and improving the operation."

McConnell was vague about what concrete changes he hoped to see within the 30-day evaluation period. "At the end of the day," he said, "it'll be a judgment call. ... We will evaluate [ARAMARK's] response; [and] we will evaluate their capacity to continue to respond and their ability to serve us at a level that we think is appropriate for the future. And that will determine their future on campus."

## • If ARAMARK fails

If ARAMARK fails to meet expectations by Oct. 13, McConnell said he would give the company 60 days notice (as specified by contract) and would invite a new company to take over for next semester.

The two companies, however, expressed differing interpretations of their involvement at Kenyon. Senior Vice President of AVI Dick Martin said AVI is on campus strictly to assess ARAMARK's performance.

In contrast, Bon Appétit's regional director of marketing, Lawrence Murrill, said, "When I visit a campus my role is not to evaluate the current services ... but to learn about your community and to help identify new opportunities to provide food and services that reflect the dining needs of the student body and build upon the mission and values of the institution."

In the event of a change in company, McConnell made it clear that only the ARAMARK managers would actually have to leave; all other employees would most likely keep their positions under new management.

## • Potential replacements

Both AVI and Bon Appétit, McConnell said, "are very committed to the local farm-to-table program" and to sustainable agriculture in general.

According to its website, Califor-

nia-based Bon Appétit strives "to be the premier on-site restaurant company known for its culinary expertise and commitment to socially responsible practices. ... Our kitchen philosophy is simple. We cook from scratch using fresh, authentic ingredients. ... We purchase local and seasonal products."

According to Murrill, "our goal is to ensure 20 percent of what our cafes serve comes from local sources. Most of our cafes go well beyond that. ... If selected as [Kenyon's] food service provider we will begin our partnership ... with all the resources of our company prepared to support and build upon Kenyon's Food for Thought initiative."

Murrill added that Bon Appétit's menus are always tailored to the needs and desires of individual institutions. "We do not believe in a cookie cutter approach," he said. "There are no menu cycles, no library of manuals dictating what to serve and

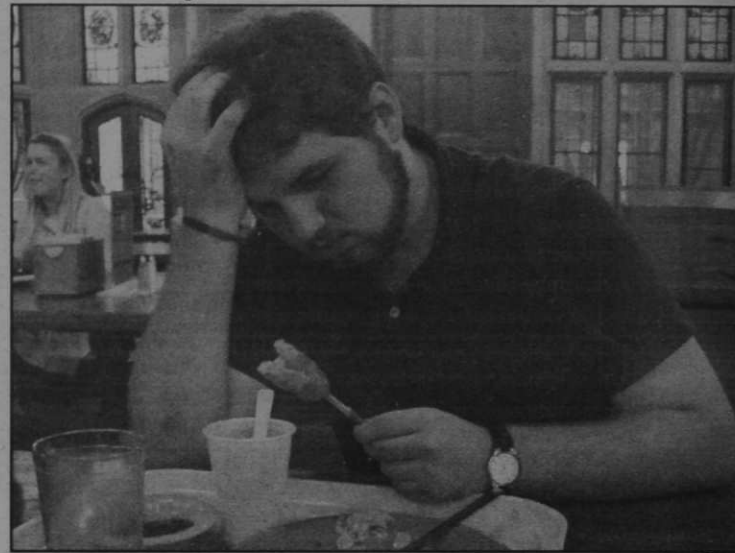
know what's best for you," Martin said. "We find out what you want ... and we give it to you."

According to Martin, AVI, if selected to replace ARAMARK, would work with student government, lead focus groups and encourage interaction with students through "meet the manager" sessions. In addition, he said, AVI's president would visit Kenyon at least six times a year to evaluate student satisfaction. He stressed, however, that AVI is currently merely involved in "the assessment process."

## • Student reactions

Students have expressed positive opinions about AVI and Bon Appétit, saying Kenyon might do well to replace ARAMARK with one of them.

"There was this super-friendly little blonde lady who circulated around Peirce," said Marissa Maybee '08. "She sat down at the table with me and four of



Aaron Hatley '08 contemplates his dinner at Peirce.

Steve Klise

when to serve it. Our approach requires our chefs and managers to work closely with their guests and their campus community to continuously seek input and feedback on their menu and services."

AVI, a family-owned, Warren Ohio-based company, professes a similar commitment to catering to the needs of individual universities and colleges.

"We don't have the mindset 'we

my friends. ... Then she just led a discussion about the food. ... She was awesome and I hate ARAMARK, so hopefully we change to that food service!"

Sam Shopinski '06 talked with representatives from both AVI and Bon Appétit and said that "the people from AVI were ... very interested in working with students. ... They made an extremely good first impression."

## Lottery: Can housing be simplified?

CONTINUED from page 1

apartments and ending in alternate years with men's or women's blocks and doubles.

"In a simple lottery, the first person to pick would choose their room and then could pull up any person from the same class or classes below," Hands said.

Denison University is one college that uses this method to assign rooms, and it is that example that concerns Barbuto: "An all-in system where all seniors choose on the same day could be a bit cutthroat and leave some people scrambling for replacements. Words like 'cutthroat' and 'people reduced to tears' [were used] to describe it in a Columbus Post-Dispatch article written last year." Concerns about this system have arisen about the possibility of students with high lottery numbers abandoning agreements to room with friends in order to claim more desirable rooms.

Kenyon's current system is not without similar tensions. "My previous experience had been with all-in lottery systems, and I never had the issue of

people manipulating the system," said Barbuto. "This is the fifth college I've worked at and the first place where I have seen people manipulate the system in a way that is really dishonest when you get down to it." The sale of upperclassmen lottery points is the most common form of dishonesty that Kenyon students practice in the lottery. These sales allow upperclassmen to live off campus without approval from the College. Barbuto said he is aware of ten students living off campus without permission this year.

Senior Class President Hayes Wong '06 stressed that any lottery should be designed to give the seniors the most desirable housing. She suggested assigning certain dorms as senior-only spaces.

"Kenyon doesn't have a lot of good housing and those few spaces that are desirable should go to seniors," Wong said. "You could do this by designating the Tafts, the Bexleys and Farr for seniors."

Although the council agreed that seniors should have the most desirable housing on campus, Hands explained that "there is quite a bit of inter-year housing which encourages a greater

community feeling since classes intermingle and get to know each other." Establishing point requirements for living in certain spaces, or restricting certain dorms to the senior class, would discourage students of different class years from living together.

Ultimately, Barbuto places responsibility for lottery results on the students and not the system. "Any lottery system falls upon the people participating being aware of their options and plans," he said. "One of the issues last year was a perception held by upperclassmen that they wouldn't be able to get the housing they wanted. Consequently, they didn't enter the lottery. It's not the fault of the sophomore who enters the lottery thinking it's an impossibility and ends up getting an Acland. That wasn't something the system did."

The council plans to continue discussion on the housing lottery throughout the term, and Barbuto emphasized that he is "willing to listen to and entertain ideas and do research" on alternative lottery processes that Kenyon could employ.



# Development: Positive change or strain on the area?

CONTINUED from page 1

schools would be overwhelmed by a sudden population increase from a 183-home development.

Chief of the College Township Fire Department Larry Cullison, whose volunteer department would be responsible for covering the Lakes at Wolf Run subdivision, said that the developers had been receptive to their requests.

"We were able to offer our wishes for street width, hydrants, and entrances," Cullison said. "They developed a plan around those suggestions." That plan includes fire hydrants every 350 feet within the development.

According to Rob Weston, the Mount Vernon attorney representing the developers, "[That number of hydrants is] something that doesn't exist in probably 95 percent of the area that this fire department currently has responsibility for. They usually have to tank all the water out there."

But Cullison is uncertain about the effect the development would have on his department. "Anytime you have 183 houses, you're adding 183 families and at least that many opportunities for fire and EMS calls," he said. "Is that a problem or a strain? I can't answer that. ... I honestly have no way of knowing yet."

The question of public school service is equally uncertain. "The city of Mount Vernon couldn't pass a bond issue last year that had the majority of its funding from the state," said Tucker in an e-mail. "Where is the school district going to put these kids? How many new buses will the school district have to buy? How many new teachers will have to be hired?"

Weston said that new students would benefit the district and that their increasing numbers would support a new elementary school in Gambier.

A few residents questioned how well Yaeger Road would hold up under the stress of increased traffic. After Monroe Township trustees voiced their concern, the developer agreed to repave and upgrade the foundation of Yaeger Road and to put in two left-hand turn lanes at the entrance to the subdivision.

Yet another source of concern for residents is the potential environmental impact of the development, particularly on the Kokosing River. As required by the county, the developer has submitted a storm water management plan for the site. According to Weston, runoff

from the subdivision would in fact be subject to more stringent control than the site's current agricultural runoff.

In 1998, three RPC task forces and a design consultant worked collaboratively to produce the Knox County Comprehensive Plan, a roughly 100-page report considered by many to be the Bible of urban planning in Knox

between 1974 and 1992 and is among the top six states in land consumption per citizen, according to the Comprehensive Plan.

The development along Coshoc-ton Avenue in Mount Vernon caught most people off-guard when it began in the 1980's, and many cite the road as a mistake to learn from.

goal through several land purchases in recent years, funded by gifts and alumni donations. According to Doug Givens, Managing Director of the corporation, the group has also been applying for agricultural and conservation easements from the government on behalf of nearby landowners. With an easement, a landowner agrees to a

## Is the housing really needed?

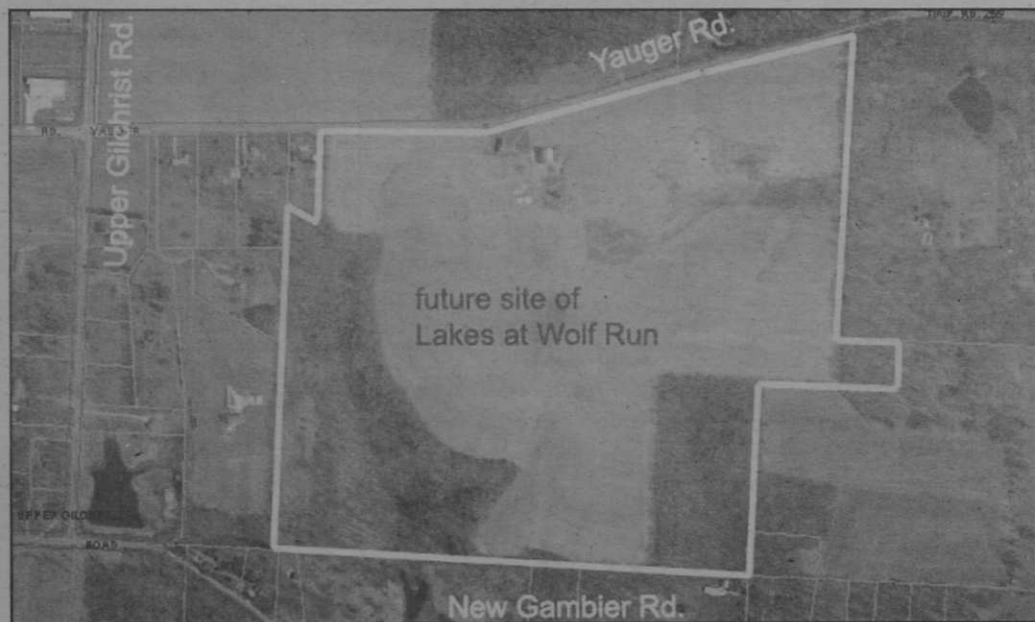
Amid all the controversy surrounding the subdivision proposal a fundamental question has emerged: does Knox County really need 183 new houses? Out of 6,612 residential lots in Apple Valley, 2,300 have homes built on them, while the rest remain available for development. The Comprehensive Plan advocates growth in areas like this, which have existing infrastructure, as opposed to building on active farmland.

Weston said he believes the new homes will be occupied by current residents of the county seeking an upgrade but did not go on to say what would become of their former houses.

"This year has been a banner year for real estate in Knox County," said Mary Lee Kirk of the Knox County Board of Realtors. "Prices are not being lowered [to speed sales]. ... We've been getting just about what people are asking. We get lots of people from Columbus, due to the fact they can buy one and a half times the property and our property taxes are a lot less." However, when asked if she thought there would be enough demand to fill the 183 new houses, Kirk seemed hesitant. "I hope there is the need," she said. "I really do."

Even among those who accept growth in Knox County as inevitable, there remains a belief that developments like the Lakes at Wolf Run are the wrong way of accommodating growth.

"When I go downtown, I look at all of the empty stores, upstairs over those stores," said Tucker. "I look at that and I think, man, those would make great condos, those would make great apartments. A nice walking community like they have in many other places of the country. People would be frothing at the mouth, a lot of developers, to get a hold of something like that and really make downtown vibrant."



A satellite image of the farm on Yaeger Road shows the area that may soon become a new subdivision.

County. The site of the proposed subdivision is near several "green spaces," including Wolf Run Park, the Knox Woods Nature Preserve and the Kokosing Gap Trail. The Comprehensive Plan states that "proper site planning should take place in [the Yaeger Road] area to realize the considerable potential to connect these features with open space linkages and open space corridors."

"What we've got here is the start of a green belt," said Fred Baumann, the Harry M. Clor Professor of Political Science, at the RPC meeting. Sixty-four of the subdivision's 124 acres would be designated as green space; whether the subdivision would help connect open space or would break it up continues to be a topic of debate.

While the questions raised at the meeting highlighted the immediate concerns of residents, the fervor of the development's opponents seems to hint at a broader anxiety over the pace of growth in Knox County and a loss of the area's "rural character." The city of Mount Vernon's web site boasts that Mount Vernon is "one of Ohio's most livable communities." But there is fear among local residents that the very qualities that cause people to move to Mount Vernon will be destroyed.

The concern is not just a local one: Ohio lost 1.4 million acres of farmland

"I don't think most people realize how quickly this can happen, how quickly ... everything can be gone," said Tucker. "We have to act now, not five or ten years from now, it's going to be too late then."

The site of the proposed subdivision is a little over two miles as the crow flies from downtown Gambier. But for some, the edge of development is creeping just a little too close for comfort.

In the late 1990s, Kenyon created the Philander Chase Corporation, a nonprofit organization with the express mission of protecting land around the College from development. The corporation has worked toward this

legally binding contract that strictly limits development and dividing of the land; in return, the landowner is entitled to receive a one-time payment, although not all opt to take the money.

The dual strategy of acquisitions and easements has proved to be highly successful for the Philander Chase Corporation: some 1700 acres in the immediate vicinity of Gambier are now protected.

"We want to work with property owners before applications for subdivisions come along," Givens said. "We want to be in advance of the developers."

## Gambier responds to ongoing water woes

BY MEGAN SHIPLEY  
Business Manager

Discussion of Gambier's ongoing water problems reemerged at this week's Village Council meeting. The most recent water leak, located under the road in front of Wiggin Street School, is scheduled to be repaired today, according to Village Administrator Rob McDonald, while the Council's efforts to deal with defective meters continue this month.

The leak under Wiggin Street will be repaired using a technique called "directional boring" which will avoid tearing up the road, according to Council Member Audra Ransburg. Holes will be dug diagonally from the edge of the road to access the pipe. McDonald said that this is the "best, most economical fix" and that current plastic tubing will be replaced with copper tubing that should last for 50-70 years. "Once we shoot this new lining," he said, "we should be done with this one."

Water leaks have plagued Gambier for at least the last five years, contributing to high water rates in the Village. The most significant leak occurred in 2004 when a pipe outside

Mather Residence Hall lost about 100,000 gallons a day for several days before it was detected.

Another problem for Gambier's water system is the discrepancy between water usage and billing: McDonald reported to the Council that only 56.7 percent of the water the Village purchased this past quarter was billed to residents. Gambier buys its water from Mount Vernon.

McDonald identified three possible reasons for the unbilled water: leaks, billing errors and defective meters. Work on old pipes has reduced leakage, and the Village's billing program was updated this month, McDonald said. Much of the

problem, therefore, can be blamed on "unmetered water or slow meters," he said.

"A faulty meter is similar to a watch running out of battery; it just slows down," McDonald said. "Instead of being accurate, it will maybe be 80 percent accurate."

The Village will begin calibrating meters larger than 1.5 inches in College-owned buildings this month. Slow residential meters will eventually be replaced, said McDonald.

"The calibrating of meters will reduce the water loss ratio," said McDonald. "Then hopefully the Village can keep the water rates stable."

## Additional issues discussed at Monday's meeting:

- A proposal to amend zoning laws to allow for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) was tabled again this month, although Mayor Kirk Emmert said he hopes to be able to present a "recommended version of this PUD legislation" to the Council by the end of the October.
- The Council passed a resolution supporting the work of the Community Health and Recovery Board of Licking and Knox Counties and encouraging citizens to vote for the Mental Health and Recovery Board Levy, which is on the ballot this November.
- A Cingular cell phone tower is slated to be built on top of the Gambier water tower and should be up by Jan. 1. The new tower should bring cell phone service to Gambier.
- The Village newsletter will no longer be delivered to homes; it is now online at [www.villageofgambier.org](http://www.villageofgambier.org). Copies will also be available in the post office.



Did you know that compared with men, women develop Alcohol-induced liver disease over a shorter period of time and after consuming less Alcohol?  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY: ODADA'S

### FRIDAY THE 7TH

#### GAME NIGHT

COME JOIN THE FUN AND SIGN UP FOR A TOURNAMENT TO WIN SOME COOL PRIZES. THERE WILL BE PIZZA AND RAFFLE PRIZES TOO! GAMES TO PLAY: PING PONG, FOOSEBALL, AIR HOCKEY, BILLIARDS, CARD AND BOARD GAMES  
SEE YOU FRIDAY, 9PM-1AM IN THE GUND GAME ROOM.  
SPONSORED BY SOCIAL BOARD

### SATURDAY THE 8TH

COME OUT TO LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS OF HOLOPAW AND DAEDULUS

HORN GALLERY AT 9PM.

SIGN UP ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE SAC BY 4:00 PM ON FRIDAY



## Kenyon Kribs

*A journey into lower Lewis*



Jill Olsavsky '09 welcomes visitors in her lower Lewis double.

Jenny Shin

BY JENNY SHIN  
Staff Writer

Even a simple color theme can add a great deal to the atmosphere of one's room. In Lewis 014, Jill Olsavsky '09 chose soft hues to decorate her side of the room in hopes of creating a soothing and relaxing atmosphere. Indeed, when one walks into the room there is a

sense of coziness and tranquility. The walls are neatly covered with posters of artwork by Monet and Van Gogh.

"I like artwork a lot, so it was really important to me to have posters of paintings in my room," said Olsavsky. Not only do these beautiful scenes add to the room's soothing atmosphere, but they are sure to cheer up the inhabitants of the room

during the upcoming winter.

Adding to the personality of Olsavsky's room are the dark pink lights that hang across the wall, as well as the snug quilt folded up at the foot of her bed. Olsavsky mentions that she added the string of lights simply for the fun factor. One of the nicest aspects of the room is the lamp hanging over Olsavsky's bed. The lamp cover is made up of bright, satiny patches, which makes this creative addition to the room even more eye-catching. This unique feature allows Olsavsky to read on her bed with a soft and cozy light.

Lastly, Olsavsky and her roommate, Cally Haggerty '09, keep a mass of bright, fake flowers by the window. The flowers, like Olsavsky's posters, serve a dual purpose: to beautify the room and to add a little bit of spring.

*Have ideas for someone to feature in Kenyon Kribs? E-Mail luj or reachk with suggestions!*

## Sex & the Country

*Excuse me, have we met before?*



BY ADAM LEVERONE  
Staff Columnist

There are approximately 1725 students at Kenyon College. The campus has a 53% to 47% female to male ratio. Why do male and female students have trouble meeting each other?

Students, both male and female, are constantly complaining about meeting other people. "Why can't I ever find a nice guy/girl?" they ask. Girls are complaining to their friends that nice guys just don't exist, while the nice guys are whining about how they can't stand the "get-dressed-up-and-f---me" girls. But nice guys and girls do exist. The problem is that people are just looking and interacting in the wrong places.

The scenario: student meets student at a party. They are introduced through a friend or through a casual conversation. They talk for a bit and then get back to the atmosphere that is the party. The next afternoon, they see each other around campus. Do they talk to each other? Initiating conversation with someone at a party is very different than initiating conversation with him or her while you are doing something as simple as waiting in line for lunch. If you have the pleasure and the luck of meeting someone at a party sober enough to have an intelligent conversation, congratulations. However, in the real world, this usually is not the case. Relationships very rarely flourish from drunken hookups.

Students are so wrapped up in complaining about not meeting that nice guy or girl that they aren't getting off their asses and just hanging out with people they do meet. Whatever happened to the old-fashioned idea of hanging out in someone's room? When you are sitting around on your hall or out on the quad, talk to people. If you see people in class and you think about talking to them, go for it.

Give yourself and the other person a chance. Her appearance, the way she acts and the body language that she uses will all differ from atmosphere to atmosphere. The first and hardest step in getting to know someone is saying hello. Once that hurdle has been crossed, keep it social. Don't make your interaction a once-a-week appointment. The longest-lasting relationships can start anywhere from sitting on a blanket on the quad to chatting the laundry rooms of the dorms.

Having a relationship is about knowing a person and trusting that person. Get to know them first on a level that doesn't involve bad keg beer and bumping and grinding.

If you do happen to be introduced to someone at a party and you both connect, take advantage of the opportunity to talk to him or her in a more in the social setting. Talk to your friends; they will introduce you to people. Go outside and talk, or just stand around and have a drink. You never know what could happen.

The archaic initiative of going up to someone and asking them their name and getting them a drink isn't the worst idea that a student can have. It's all about sociability. The better the understanding that not every person you introduce yourself to or meet will be your soulmate, the more likely the chances of a solid friendship.

It all goes back to the concept of tradition. An extremely trivial "hello" around campus may flourish into something that will last a lifetime. But you never know until you try.

## Susi sweetly spices up the Mount Vernon restaurant scene



Susi's Sweet and Spicy in downtown Mount Vernon showcases Susi Serrino's culinary talents.

Steve Klise

BY MADDIE SMITH  
Staff Writer

Great food, fine desserts, good coffee—what more could one want? What about a cozy, welcoming atmosphere? Affordable prices? Expensive lotion in the bathroom? Susi's Sweet and Spicy, on Third North Main Street in Mount Vernon, has them all, not to mention one of the nicest owners a diner could ever meet.

After 21 years as a training specialist and countless compliments on her cooking, Susi Serrino was finally able to open her first restaurant this August. As a training specialist, she did not have very much time to cook or to think about a restaurant until, she said, "One day, my manager came to me and said, 'Susi, you are a good cook. We have companies visiting

from Korea and Japan. Why don't you take time off to cook for them?' I did ... and everybody liked it!" Enthusiastic responses kept Serrino cooking and baking all kinds of food—and the company kept asking for her food.

Now, with her new restaurant, Serrino pleases more and more people with her array of homemade baked goods and meals. Most popular are her breakfasts; people devour her eggs, hashbrowns and pancakes, made with fresh fruit and toasted nuts. Theme dinners feature Italian, Mexican and Chinese cuisine.

As for baked goods, cheesecakes are her specialty. She prepares them in many different flavors and sizes, all perfectly rich and creamy. A popular favorite is her Lover's Cake—chocolate cake with pineapple, toasted coconut and pudding drizzled with

more chocolate.

"People just go crazy about that!" she says. And what about her German chocolate cake? "I make that and they eat the whole nine yards!"

She greets her guests warmly. "Come over and I'll make you a chicken salad plate and we can talk here," she said when the *Collegian* requested an interview. Serrino is also generous—if you go to pick up a birthday cake, you may very well end up with an additional piece of peanut butter cheesecake—absolutely delicious and absolutely free!

Does Serrino enjoy making the food just as much as the customers enjoy eating it? "I enjoy it a lot," said Serrino. "Every time I make a new dessert, I'm really excited ... for everybody to taste and say what they think. They like it!"

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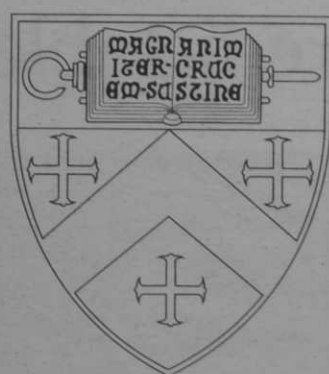
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## ARAMARK's dismissal: a done deal?

Each fall brings new professors to gossip about and new roommates to seclude. One thing doesn't change: Kenyon students' never-ending complaints about the food. But lo! This year there have been changes in the menus at Peirce and Gund, many of which are arguably for the better.

Though some students contend that the entrees have taken a turn for the worse, vegetarian options have been expanded, and the herbivores among us have more to choose from than an anemic leaf of lettuce and a handful of baby carrots. Options at the salad bar have increased and fruit selections have improved.

The reason for these improvements can be traced to an ultimatum Kenyon's new Chief Business Officer David McConnell gave to ARAMARK: improve service in 30 days (by Oct. 13) or be replaced with another food-service provider. McConnell has invited two outside companies, AVI FOODSYSTEMS and Bon Appetit, to campus to survey students and help assess the quality of Kenyon's food service.

But here is the (forgive us) "sketchy" part: AVI and Bon Appetit are also being considered as replacements for ARAMARK's services if ARAMARK is indeed ousted.

The wisdom of asking one company to evaluate a competitor who holds the very contract that the evaluator seeks seems ill-advised at best and downright disastrous at worst. While zeal to improve campus dining services is admirable, the blazing pace of the evaluation period leaves us wondering whether ARAMARK has been given an adequate chance to respond to the ultimatum and improve campus food service.

ARAMARK is indeed a large corporation that has had 24 years to spiff up its service to Kenyon students, and AVI and Bon Appetit have indeed interviewed several hundred students on campus in an effort to evaluate campus dining; maybe it's time for ARAMARK to go. But we hope that, if the company is replaced with an ostensibly better food provider, it is the result of a fair evaluation, rather than a hasty decision influenced by back-room cronyism.



## Paganism deserves respect

BY ERIN ELLINGWOOD  
Staff Columnist

Though I have been exposed to many religions, I am sadly ignorant when it comes to paganism, so I attended the first annual Knox County Pagan Pride Festival last Sunday at the Brown Family Environmental Center. As I learned, "paganism" is a large umbrella under which many different sub-religions fall (such as Wicca and Druidism).

First, I'd like to say what paganism is *not* about: it is not about curses, evil, sacrifices, black clothing or physical harm. Lisa Rosenthal '07, who ran a booth selling her jewelry at the festival, said that the moderator's comments at the festival's opening mentioned that "the popular impression of pagans is unfounded, and that pagans do not participate in animal sacrifices or abducting children or other urban legends."

Paganism has long suffered from a bad reputation. Priests and clergymen in early Europe regaled their congregations with horrific tales of pagan rituals involving animal sacrifices and evil spirits in order to scare them away from this once-popular religion. In fact, paganism was around long before many other world religions and its influences can still be seen in modern society. The Celtic cross, for example, is a Christian image, but most people don't know that the circle behind the cross is derived from paganism; the complete image of the cross-on-circle signifies the meeting of the two religions when missionaries started coming to Ireland.

So why are these awful myths and misconceptions about paganism still perpetuated today? The answer is the same for all questions of why people fear the unknown: they don't take the time to find out the truth for themselves.

Another part of the opening ceremony included a discussion about protestors of the festival. Rosenthal recalls the moderator saying that "the protestors should be approached with kindness and love because that is the

pagan message."

Those same messages are a major component of the holy writings of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Jesus did not preach exclusivity or prejudice but rather taught a message of tolerance, acceptance and love. After sitting through countless Sunday readings, I can recall that the only times Jesus ever became upset with his followers were when they displayed hypocrisy and intolerance.

I was truly upset, therefore, when I heard what some of the protestors were doing. According to Rosenthal, "there were two young men with video cameras who interrogated a vendor next to me about... the validity of Tarot cards foreseeing the future. The vendor explained that Tarot cards do not tell an absolute truth, but that [truth] is relative and an individual experience. The protestors proceeded to ask him if absolutely everything is relative, to which he replied 'yes,' and they explained to him that his position was inherently hypocritical if there are no absolutes."

Rosenthal added that the protestors with the video camera planned to use their film for "educational purposes." The vendor, however, felt the film would be used for propaganda and rescinded his permission to be taped.

"They never asked about pagan beliefs or expressed any of their own," Rosenthal said. They seemed to only want him to contradict himself about

absolutes so that they could tape it." In America, we have a constitutional right to free speech and peaceful protesting, but what happened at the Pagan Pride Festival was bullying.

Not all of the vendors present were even pagans: Rosenthal herself is Jewish. A mother who was selling homemade scented soaps and lotions with her daughter (I purchased a bath soap from them), commented, "This one lady came by here, stared at our table, then threw her hands up and said 'I just don't understand it!' I was like, 'What, soap?' and she said 'No, paganism!' I just wanted to tell her we were just selling soap, not religion."

Rosenthal participated in the festival because "I decided it would be an interesting venue for selling my jewelry. I feel that paganism is just as legitimate a religion as my own—Judaism—and wanted to learn about their traditions and beliefs." I share her sentiments.

Religious tolerance at Kenyon is fairly high, but while there is no real open hostility, there is still a prejudice against those religions that fall outside of the Judeo-Christian-Far East circle. Rosenthal noted that, when it comes to paganism, "Some Kenyon students feel it is not a legitimate religion and more of a 'fad religion.'" For those who practice paganism, it is no fad, but a way of life that teaches love, kindness and communication with the natural world.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

First, let me thank you and your staff for the informative article printed in the last issue of the *Collegian* ("Security patrols off-campus parties," Sep. 29, 2005). I have no particular comments on the article itself except praise. What prompts my response is a remark attributed to a student on page 2. It is an alarming remark. Lamenting the weekend tedium we all face in rural Ohio, this student claims that "This school is basically designed to turn kids into alcoholics."

This is not true. Even as a mere rhetorical strategy to enforce a point, this remark is mystifying. Kenyon College is designed to educate young men and women and help them become better persons, not alcoholics.

Paolo Asso

Assistant Professor of Classics

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E-mail address: [collegian@kenyon.edu](mailto:collegian@kenyon.edu)

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# Corpse Bride is beautifully artistic though predictable

BY TED HORNICK  
Senior A & E Editor

In 1982, an enterprising and little-known animator named Tim Burton made a short claymation film called *Vincent*, the story of an eccentric seven-year-old who dreams of escaping everyday life into a world of horror movie monsters. The film remains a masterpiece of Burton's career, a legacy that includes the good (*Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*), the bad (*Batman Returns*) and the unspeakable (many Burton fans are polite and ignore his remake of *Planet of the Apes*).

Today, Burton has cornered the market on a genre that could only be described as "scary-cute," combining the macabre with the melodic, making skeletons and spooks not only approachable but downright lovable. Although he's branched into new territory, Burton's weird verve is always on the edge in his stories, sometimes sneaking into the foreground (consider Danny DeVito's friendly werewolf in *Big Fish*, or Burton's insistence that the evil aliens of *Mars Attacks!* needed green brains and red eyes, since the film was a Christmas movie). Animation enthusiasts and Burton fans were delighted to discover that this fall he would return to claymation with *Corpse Bride*—but does the film match his previous masterworks?

Perhaps a more appropriate

question would be "Does that matter?" If you're an animation fan, a Burton fan or have ever been a Goth, you've probably already seen the movie. Twice.

*Bride* is a classic fairy tale, with Burton's necromancy all over it. In a small, drab town, Victor Van Dort (Johnny Depp, in his fifth collaboration with Burton) is the son of wealthy fish merchants. Forced into an arranged marriage with a shy aristocrat, Victoria Everglot (the great Emily Watson), the shy Victor finds himself terrified of commitment. Scared away from a wedding rehearsal by a grumpy priest (horror movie legend Christopher Lee), Victor rehearses his vows near a cemetery—and resurrects Emily (Helena Bonham Carter, Burton's muse), a sexy zombie smitten with the hapless hero.

To say more would reveal the movie's quirkiest details, as the loving Victoria struggles to save her man

from an unholy union, the clumsy Victor tries not to break hearts (or anything else), and the decomposing Emily works to not fall apart (metaphorically and literally). Suffice it to say, there are angry in-laws (Albert Finney steals the show as the Everglot elder), dance numbers, competing suitors and plenty more ghoulies where Emily comes from.

visuals (two enemy soldiers drink together, now that their battle is over), lively music (Burton's maestro Danny Elfman steals the show and provides exposition as a cycloptic jazz singer named Bonejangles) and Burton's creative staging all clicking together.

The movie opens on a perfect note as the camera introduces

Bonham Carter?

Another, more depressing matter is the film's music (excusing the aforementioned jazz piece). At its worst, it has none of the charm that earned Elfman his reputation as one of the great cinematic composers, and at its best the score is just derivative of his past works with Burton.

Perhaps, ultimately, that's the biggest issue with *Corpse Bride*. It's lovely, it's creepy and it's all been seen before. Attentive viewers will recognize *Beetlejuice*'s haunted dinner party, *Frankenweenie*'s adorable dead dog, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*'s Deep Roy and other bits that even I couldn't spot. All of the actors are perfect, and many of them have worked with Burton before, usually in films better than this one. However, even some of the characters seem recycled—at one point, someone calls Victor "Vincent," and we realize that the lovelorn geek is Burton's tormented seven-year-old, all grown-up and finally in the movie he wanted.

If you don't mind the film's mix-tape quality of assembling things you've seen before, and if you can tolerate a predictable script with a lot of puns involving decomposition, you will appreciate *Corpse Bride* as one of the most beautiful artistic visions of the year. If you're like me, you're probably already waiting for Burton's next movie—or hoping you can get Helena's phone number from him.



movies.yahoo.com

Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter refuse to let life separate them in *Corpse Bride*.

Burton's story loses some of the subtlety of his older works, but none of their ectoplasmic energy. The movie's stand-out scene is Victor's introduction to Emily's world, "downstairs," a neon-lit landscape that recalls Mexican Day of the Dead art and Brechtian cabaret. It's an apogee in all departments, with colorful

ment that (yes!) Tim Burton is animating again wears off before too long, especially when one realizes that although the story is cute and compelling, it's also pretty predictable. In real life or cinema, would undeath really complicate the issue of having to decide between the sweet Emily Watson and the wild Helena

## Pain and love ring true in *The Constant Gardener*



movies.yahoo.com

Rachel Weisz and Ralph Fiennes are lovers in trouble in *The Constant Gardener*.

BY REBECCA RIDDELL  
Staff Writer

It is a rare film that can intelligently combine car chases and human rights issues with grace and beauty, but recent release *The Constant Gardener* provides not only compelling action but also heart-wrenching human drama.

In the film, Ralph Fiennes plays Justin Quayle, a British diplomat in Kenya investigating the suspicious details surrounding his activist wife's death. In doing so, he becomes mired in an elaborate conspiracy involving racist pharmaceutical giants, AIDS and corrupt government officials.

The film alternates between flashbacks of Quayle's previous life as a diplomat and footage of his crusade to examine the circumstances that led to the brutal murder of his wife (Rachel Weisz). It could have been just another typical action movie, full of spies and car chases, but *The Constant Gardener* is much more; it is action with touching and convincing romance—an engaging and visually stunning human drama with real depth.

The lens of director Fernando Meirelles captures an Africa as beautiful as it is tragic. The flawless direction is attentive to every visually striking possibility; Meirelles, best known

previously for his direction of *City of God*, has an eye for the grace of the land and presents it in a way that is subtle and organic.

Both Weisz and Fiennes perform perfectly, bringing to life believable and complex characters, capturing faultlessly endearing and tragic love. The film is an example of how heartbreak—be it a miscarriage or a lost spouse—can drive people beyond their limits. Fiennes dazzles in the most understated way, portraying isolation and heartache with a tender vulnerability.

Capitalizing on the recent popularity of politically-minded documentaries like *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *The Constant Gardener* has definite political overtones but also the thrill and suspense of a Hollywood drama. A moralizing thriller with the impact of today's headlines, it is a testament to the filmmakers that the movie seems more like a true story than an adaptation of a John le Carré novel.

The movie has drawn criticism from conservative critics for misrepresenting the political situation in Africa, but these pundits miss that the perceived bias is an instrument to further cinematic drama. The plot hinges on a fictional world-wide tuberculosis epidemic lurking in the near future

and, though it might raise awareness, it is not meant to be taken as factual. The film is not political as it does not advocate a certain solution to a real problem; rather, it uses a dire political situation as material for a compelling and fictional romance.

Over a month after release, *The Constant Gardener* boasts less than a \$30 million gross, paltry considering the estimated \$25 million production costs. Despite many positive reviews,

publicity seems relatively minimal, and release, particularly in rural areas, is limited. Perhaps the political nuances isolate the popular audience, or discourage vendors from carrying the film. Mt. Vernon's Premier Theatre has thrice-daily showings of films like *Into the Blue* and *Just Like Heaven*, but students must travel into Columbus if they want to see *The Constant Gardener*. Luckily for viewers, the film is worth the extra gas mileage.

### Premiere Theatres Movie Schedule, Oct. 7-13

#### Wallace and Gromit

5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (also 1:10 and 3:10 on Sat/Sun)

#### Waiting

5:20, 7:20, 9:20 (also 1:20 and 3:20 on Sat/Sun)

#### In Her Shoes

4:20, 7:00, 9:40 (also 1:30 on Sat/Sun)

#### Two for the Money

4:40, 7:10, 9:40 (also 1:30 on Sat/Sun)

#### Flight Plan

5:10, 7:20, 9:30 (also 12:50 and 3:00 on Sat/Sun)

#### Corpse Bride

5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (also 1:00 and 3:00 on Sat/Sun)

#### Into the Blue

9:30 (also 12:30 on Sat/Sun)

#### Just Like Heaven

5:00, 7:15 (also 2:45 on Sat/Sun)



# Wrenching family drama really gets your Goat



Kevin Guckes

Martin (Colin Mannex '06) shows Ross (Andrew Kingsley '06) a picture of his new love—Sylvia, the goat.

BY CAIT WATKINS  
AND TED HORNICK  
*Collegian Staff*

*The Goat, or Who is Sylvia* was a thoroughly enjoyable theater experience from start to finish. If you missed it, you missed one of the best senior theses recently produced at Kenyon.

The play itself, written by Edward Albee (known for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) is thought-provoking and insightful. At the beginning of the play, we see a happy nuclear family going about their suburban lives. Then a bomb is dropped on the family when we discover that Martin,

the husband, has been having an affair with Sylvia, a goat. Martin confides his secret to his best friend Ross. The whole family dynamic is turned on its head when Ross writes a letter to Martin's wife, Stevie, telling her of the sordid affair.

Perhaps most worthwhile in the show is how Albee addresses bestiality. Martin and Stevie's son, Billy, is homosexual. Recently, this country has begun realizing that homosexuality is not outside the social norms of sexuality. By presenting a story about bestiality alongside a gay character, Albee reminds us what we once thought was outside the norm

is actually quite natural. It is difficult to say that the audience sympathizes with any one character, but at the end of the play, you definitely feel for Martin. It is a surreal and inexplicable sympathy for a loving yet ultimately perverted man. It is a testament to Jessica Freeman-Slade's direction and her ensemble of talented actors that this link is allowed to exist.

The audience sympathizes with every character largely because of effective acting. The show truly had a stellar cast, all with impeccable timing. Colin Mannex '06 portrayed Martin as delightfully aloof, thereby creating a fascinating dynamic between Martin and Stevie as they fought.

Stevie, played by Emily Culliton '06, was in full-out attack mode during the argument scene; watching Martin stand inert as she smashed vases was an effective way to draw the audience into the scene.

I can hardly discuss powerful acting without mentioning Andrew Kingsley '06 (Ross) and Charlie Cromer '09 (Billy). Kingsley played what one student described as "powerful deadpan." Cromer had a brilliant debut to Kenyon's stage, bringing intensity and sincerity to his role.

The set—a living room scene, complete with chic furniture and an antique desk—served the needs of the play extremely well. A painting, suspended by wires hangs on an imaginary wall, separates the living

room from the hallway behind.

The hallway, which was extensively used for entrances and exits, enabled scenes to flow together smoothly. This created a very interesting layering that allowed the audience to see another level of the story.

If one criticism must be levelled at the show, it is a sadly significant one. Despite the audacity and originality of the material, Albee's script seems a bit formulaic at times.

Anyone familiar with his works will most likely be able to predict the characters' fates: once the characters resign themselves to fury and misery, the tragedy is only inevitable. There never seems to be any effort to escape or suggest alternatives to this tense, downbeat finale.

All in all, *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia* was a delight—comparable to last year's hit *Frankie and Johnny*. Compliments to the cast and crew!

## Attack of the killer fruits

BY PAUL NARULA  
*Humor Columnist*

Mother Nature hates me. Which is fine, since I'm not particularly fond of her and I don't recycle. I just wish she wasn't so set upon killing me. Am I being paranoid? I think not. And I'm not simply talking about the endless supply of leaves and twigs my friends seem to track into the house. That's just because I have filthy friends.

Consider the evidence. First example, the current barrage of death from above, compliments of some sinister foliage. I would love to find the person responsible for placing so many nut-dropping trees around Kenyon. I would shake his hand—to distract him from the thugs I would hire to break his kneecaps. Or her kneecaps—women are equally capable of poor landscaping decisions.

Acorns I can deal with. We had acorns back home. Not so many, perhaps, but more than enough to cause worry. Getting an acorn dropped on you from a tree is embarrassing, especially because it's so impersonal. Trees don't pick their targets—you just get in their way.

It's far more entertaining to believe that a squirrel or chipmunk has a deep-set vendetta against you, though perhaps that explains my longstanding hatred of Chip and Dale. The squirrels at Kenyon have enough ammo to keep us under siege for the next three years. Thank God I graduate in just one; I assume the broad square hat will protect me as I make a run for the diploma.

What I can't understand are the creepy green orbs that seem to topple down towards my head from the trees. So far, I've nearly been struck by two of these, and I have no idea what they are. They resemble no fruit on earth. They have the color and general appearance of slightly smaller tennis balls. Is there an undiscovered species of Ohio fauna that craves tennis ball-esque treats? These things are hardly appetizing (and remember, years of meals at Peirce and Gund have skewed my view on food so that 'appetizing' has be-

come synonymous with 'edible'). So far, the only purpose of these errant fruit-nut monstrosities is to rot on the lawn or make me cringe whenever I hear a faint rustling sound. Someone tried to convince me that these things are walnuts, but I refuse to believe it. Walnuts do not go "squish" when you step on them. Walnuts are also delicious in their own right.

The bugs are beginning to frustrate me, as well. Have you ever hit a bug with something remarkably heavy, yet failed to kill it? You start to lie to yourself, convincing yourself that you totally missed. Otherwise, you would have to admit that you are too weak to kill even a tiny bug, and at that point, you might as well just give up.

Earlier this month, a friend of mine woke up to discover that a spider had spun a web into his shoe during the night. This either says something impressive about the tenacity of Gambier arachnid life, or something less than impressive about my friend's hygiene. I have discovered species of bugs that I could not believe existed before, things with more legs, wings and pointy mouth parts than I had suspected possible. So far, I haven't been outright attacked by these creatures, but I suspect that is only because they're amassing their forces. In the time I have spent writing this column, a spider has built a web spanning the length from my garbage can to the bottle of laundry detergent one foot away. I fear for my future.

Luckily for me, it's already October. Winter is just around the corner, which means that nature's deadly assault of nuts and bugs will be replaced with nine feet of snow and intermittent seventy degree weather (this is Ohio, after all. ... there are no reasons for the seasons, and there is precious little pleasin'). I can't wait till everything besides the nuts fall from the trees and the little multi-legged abominations in my apartment either burrow away or die. As for those of you who still have years left in Ohio, I have two suggestions: helmets and bug spray. I'm not sure they can print my other suggestions.

## ETID are drinking and rocking

BY JORDAN PEDERSEN  
*Staff Writer*

Every Time I Die  
*Gutter Phenomenon*  
\*\*\* out of five

To be perfectly honest, the members of Every Time I Die scare the crap out of me. I'm less afraid that they're going to try to gut me and sacrifice me to Satan than I am afraid they're going to get me drunk and trick me into having sex with a farm animal.

With its members looking like the lacrosse dudes you'll see playing Beirut until five in the morning down at Milk Cartons, Every Time I Die are a metal band with *bad-itude*. Frontman Keith Buckley's lyrics eschew metal's typically apocalyptic themes in favor of booze-soaked tales of sex and regret ("We both want the same thing/Bad poetry and assaults at the bar"). However, the band's vocals are more noteworthy because of the dynamic mix of screaming and testosterone-fueled shouting matches. Buckley switches seamlessly between the two styles, sometimes even throwing in an ultra-melodic chorus for good measure.

It's really all about attitude for ETID. Guitarists Jordan Buckley and Andrew Williams create ultra-catchy webs of razorblade guitar lines, frequently forgoing the typical metal chug for cocky rock riffs. Not that

the album is chug or break-down free (that'd be no fun), but *Gutter Phenomenon* works best when it quickly shifts styles to reduce monotony. On the brilliantly swaggering "The New Black" (which starts fittingly with the sound of an opening beer can), the band teases the listener by starting with a straight-forward Black Crowes-style opening riff and then dropping the band out for the pre-chorus. When the band comes back in, it's with an immensely satisfying half-time rhythm and a hook that you'll want to sing along with immediately ("If everything I do is wrong/Then by God, I do it right"). Then, just to throw you for a loop, the groove transforms into a Queens of the Stone Age inspired riff that makes you wish Nick Oliveri hadn't quit the band.

Two of the best songs here benefit immensely from a brilliant choice of guest spots. My Chemical Romance's Gerard Way drops in to sing the hook on the album's tremendous first single, "Kill the Music." Unfortunately, the version the band recorded for the video doesn't feature Way's vocals (or Way himself, probably off busy being the poster child for the emo movement), and the track suffers because Buckley can't quite pull off his urgent delivery.

Tortured Glassjaw/Head Automatica frontman Daryl Palumbo lends his inimitable warble/scream

to the album's centerpiece (and best track) "Champing at the Bit." It's probably no accident that the video for "Kill the Music" features the ear-cutting Michael Madsen (of *Reservoir Dogs* fame). The band really has an affinity for spicing up tales of drunken hook-ups with undeniably violent imagery. "Champing at the Bit" sounds like dating tips from *American Psycho*'s Patrick Bateman ("It's a pick-up line at a funeral/Cannibals alongside the catwalk/But it's okay, we've got old blood/And our veins are rooted to the hornet's nest again"). Creepy? Yes. Strangely enticing? Hell yeah.

A couple of low points: sometimes the album descends into prototypical metal chugging (the one-two blah punch of "Easy Tiger" and "Tusk and Temper") and, occasionally, the songs start to sound exactly the same. Frontman Buckley claims that "Guitared and Feathered" is a traditional ETID song, but "bigger" than anything they've ever done before. To this reviewer, it just sounds like the band was trying not to piss off their old fans. Tsk, tsk, ETID.

But these are really minor gripes. Every Time I Die's new album is *Gutter Phenomenon*-al (pun intended). Throw it on at your next party and see how long it takes for everybody to stop looking scared and start dancing. 'Cause that's exactly what the band wants you to do....



## Soccer runs the clock

BY PHILIP EDMUNDS  
Staff Reporter

"I knew that this was a huge game and a way to make a statement in the conference early," said Coach Kelly Walters of the Ladies soccer team's win over Ohio Wesleyan last Saturday. It was a tight game, but in the end the Ladies edged out the nationally-ranked Bishops to jump-start their NCAC season.

First-year standout Amy Kessler and sophomore Amanda Drummond each scored to give the Ladies the win. Kenyon is now 6-3-1 overall and 1-0-0 in the NCAC.

The game remained scoreless until the 22nd minute, when Kessler scored on a breakaway. She dribbled through two defenders and then found the back of the net. After the first goal, the game tightened up, and 15 minutes later the Bishops answered with a goal by Michelle Corbet.

The match then became a stalemate. Though both the Bishops and Ladies had opportunities to score, it wasn't until three minutes were left on the clock that

Drummond maneuvered through the Ohio Wesleyan defense and slid the ball by the keeper on the inside post.

"Even after OWU tied the game and had some other opportunities to score, we kept fighting," said Walters, "and eventually it paid off with our second goal late in the game." She attributed the win largely to heart and determination, two factors that could potentially take the Ladies far this season.

Starting the conference schedule with such a bang can be both a good and a bad thing for a team, because such a high level of play leaves room for a downslide. Walters shares this sentiment and thinks that consistency is most important for the team right now.

"We've shown that we can play when it counts, but now we have to keep that momentum," she said.

Saturday was a superb start to the season, and if the Ladies can keep their momentum, they will be very competitive in the rest of their conference play.

## Rain graces rugby's desert

Men's team wins first game in 4 years



Matt Fideler '07 picks up a breakaway along the sideline during the Men's rugby team's game against Ashland University.

Ali Kittle

BY HILARY GOWINS  
Staff Reporter

If you were wondering what the celebration was all about last Saturday evening in Peirce, here is your answer: Kenyon's men's rugby club snapped its four-year losing streak by defeating Ashland University's rugby club 12-9.

Those on Kenyon's rugby team refer to their activity as "a hooligan sport played by gentlemen." These athletes go into battle for 80 minutes and come out bloodied, bruised and sometimes broken; they are truly a unique breed of competitors.

Kenyon's club consists of 25 men and is headed by Adam Birka-White '07, Alec Egan '07, Luke Jellison '07, Jeremy Spater '07 and Jesse Rosenbluth '07. They face off every Saturday against opponents of all kinds, from large Division I schools like The Ohio State University to smaller liberal arts schools like Denison.

This past Saturday's game was set to begin in the afternoon, but in a testimony to rugby's violent nature, it was delayed because a women's rugby player from Ashland was knocked unconscious by one of our own Kenyon Ladies.

"Kenyon played their most complete game in teams collective memory," said Egan. "Each player held their positions down as never before."

Kenyon jumped out to an early 12-3 lead until Ashland bounced back, connecting on two penalty kicks to bring the score to 12-9. Ashland then ran out of gas, resulting in Kenyon's first win in four years.

The team's diehard fans could perhaps be considered an extension of the team itself. The team says that its approximately fifteen-person fan base is just as unique a breed as they themselves, cheering like maniacs throughout the game and joining in celebration afterwards.

To witness the brutality for yourself, get down to the rugby pitch on Oct. 8 at one p.m. to see the Lords take on OWU.

## Lords rush through the lines to victory

BY CHARLIE KELLEHER  
Staff Reporter

This past weekend, the Kenyon football team (1-3) defeated the Oberlin College Yeomen (1-3) at Oberlin. It was a big win for the Lords, as it makes them 1-0 in the NCAC. It was an exciting game to witness as the Lords came back from a 13-point deficit to win the game 21-20. However, three interceptions, one sack and eight penalties prevented the Lords' offense from meeting their goals.

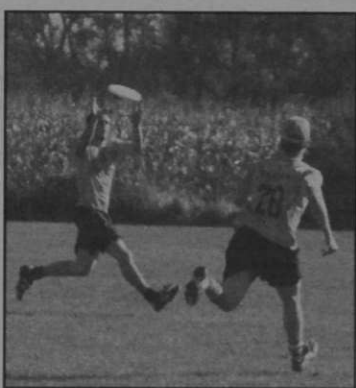
Alby Coombs '07 provided the Lords with the majority of their rushing yards, gaining 165. This gain not only greatly helped the Lords but also gave Coombs the Kenyon record for career rushing yards, with a total of 2,982. Combined with the yards gained by Coombs, three touchdowns

led the Lords to victory. Andrew Hammack '06 and Rafael Sanchez '08 scored two of these touchdowns. Casey McConnell '06 scored a touchdown at the end of the fourth quarter, which gave the Lords the win.

Said Hammack of the win, "The offense played well when we needed to; we definitely should have been more productive, but when the game was on the line, we did the job."

The offense had several major setbacks. Three interceptions gave the Yeomen an advantage over the Lords. Sanchez was sacked once, resulting in a loss of 10 yards. Penalties on both offense and defense resulted in an additional loss of 50 yards. These setbacks prevented the Lords from being able to play their game they way they wanted to.

The Lords' defense played well.



Steve Klise

## Ultimate Play

Adam Sutter '06 jumps to the disc while Mike Schnapp '08 runs up for a continuation during the 75th Annual FRED, Kenyon Ultimate's home tournament. The 75th FRED was held Oct. 1-2 at the athletic fields. Sixteen teams were in attendance, including an A and a B squad from Kenyon. Kenyon A came in second to Bowling Green State University in a 13-12 game, while Kenyon B, composed of mostly freshmen and a few alumni, got a feel for the game in many of the players' first tournament.

## Runners take second

BY CHESTER LIWOSZ  
Staff Reporter

Kenyon's own James Boston '09 ran away from the pack to win Friday's cross country invitational at Denison University. The Lords came up one point shy of team victory. The Ladies also ran a strong race, with Amy Wilkins '06 leading the women's team to second place.

Boston took the lead in the men's race at the start. From there, he pulled away from the pack with his sight on victory. Grant Russo of Denison challenged for the lead late in the race but could not pass Boston. Boston clocked a time of 27:06, holding off Russo by one second. Rich Bartholomew '06 finished fifth overall and second for the Lords with a solid 27:37. Teammate Sean Strader '06 followed Bartholomew across the line one second, and one position, behind. Close behind Strader, Kurt Hollender '06 filled Kenyon's fourth team position and finished seventh overall. Ryan Weinstock '07 was the Lord's last scoring runner, taking

ninth overall.

Amy Wilkins '06 led the charge for the Ladies. Wilkins clocked a time of 23:40, less than a second out of fourth place. Kenyon's second-place runner, Lauren Rand '06, earned eighth overall with her time of 24:18. Jessica Francois '09 completed the distance in 24:27, finishing third for Ladies and ninth overall. Jenna Rose '07 and Christina McNamara '06 also scored points for Kenyon, with overall positions of eleventh and twelfth respectively.

Modest about his accomplishment, Boston played down the importance of his individual victory. "It's not like it's really big," said Boston, "because it was such a small meet. We try to run together. Our usual focus is how close we can get to [being] a pack. I think everyone's happy that it was a close meet."

The team will race again this Friday, when Ohio Wesleyan University hosts the Ohio Intercollegiate Championship. The Lords and the Ladies hope to carry their momentum from last weekend into Friday's meet.

## Lords battle for a score

Nate Pritchard '08 moves the ball down the field during a recent game against Oberlin. Men's soccer tied with Oberlin on Oct. 1 and defeated Case Western Reserve University on Oct. 5. The Lords will travel to Allegheny this weekend to compete with the Gators.



Ali Kittle

## Volleyball falls to 5th-ranked team

BY PHILIP EDMUNDS  
Staff Reporter

The Ladies matched up against their toughest opponent yet this season on Tuesday: the Wittenberg Tigers, who are ranked fifth in the nation. Despite an early lead, the Ladies lost 3-0.

"We knew we were heading into a hard game playing Witt, who's fifth in the country, but we were ready to control our side of the court," said Sam Hoeffler '09.

In the first match, Kenyon roared ahead, gathering the first five points of the game. "We came out aggressive and focused," said Hoeffler. "Witt wasn't on top of their game right away."

Soon after, the Tigers found their rhythm and finished 30-14. The national power continued to wear down the Ladies in the next two games, winning 30-13 and 30-24. Kenyon played tough for the next two games but couldn't overturn the Tigers' consistency.

The loss to Wittenberg drops Kenyon to 0-3 in the NCAC and 6-13 overall this season. Patrice Collins '07 and Party Haze '08 contributed to the Ladies' kills, combining for 13 against the Tigers. The Ladies will continue conference play later this week at Oberlin.

The Ladies predict a similar outcome of their first game with Oberlin earlier this season. "We already beat them once this season and are confident in the same outcome this weekend," said Hoeffler. The Ladies match up with Oberlin on Saturday.